

January 11, 1995

SENATOR WILL: Right, this amendment would clarify that any individual member could bring any amendment and have it considered at the stage that we have a motion to adopt permanent rules.

SENATOR PIRSCH: At where we are. Thank you. I will support you then in this amendment. Thank you.

PRESIDENT ROBAK: Thank you, Senator Pirsch. Senator Beutler, do you wish to speak to the Will amendment? Senator Will, your light is on next, do you wish to speak further on your amendment? Senator Bernard-Stevens, do you wish to speak to the Will amendment?

SENATOR BERNARD-STEVENS: Yeah, just briefly. Senator Will and I had a conversation, and though I do admit and concur, Senator Will, that this solves part of the problem as far as the amendment procedure, and consequently I think the amendment should be adopted, I'm still not, however, comfortable with the entire rule that we have at this point. I guess, to be more candid, let's assume that Senator Witek would decide, which is certainly within her rights, that she would like to offer, or any of us would like to offer a rule change on the floor that may not have had a public hearing. Maybe it would be the one where we have a roll call vote, or whatever would be on votes for chairmanships at that point, that it would not be by secret ballot, which was an issue that Senator Witek has put before, I think, the Rules Committee at least in passing. The way the rule stands now, and I'm not sure I'm necessarily against it. I'm really struggling with it. If this rule is adopted, even with this amendment on it, it would mean a very, very powerful Rules Committee, very similar to what we may actually have seen in years past and even now in the House of Representatives on the Rules Committee, because any rule that's submitted to the Rules Committee, if it does not come out of the Rules Committee, would be impossible to have a discussion on the floor of that rule. And then if you go back to the previous change that we made on a rule, and people now may be able to see the significance of some of the changes, the original rule introduced by the Rules Committee, on the makeup of the Rules Committee, would have had six members, one of which of the six would have been the Speaker of the Legislature. And again I told Senator Withem this is nothing personal against Senator Withem or the Speaker, but the way that it works is that on the